the procurement of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protective Gear.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Counter insurgency operations in Ghati (J&K)

1582. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost 5000 troops with members of Paramilitary Forces and State police had laid siege on a forested revine in Ghati in J and K for a week to counter insurgency operations in which militants escaped safely during the month of September, 2003;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) On 30th August 2003, a police party was fired upon by terrorists in Samba Sector, resulting in one fatal casualty of a police personnel. About 600 Army personnel joined the personnel from Central Police Organisations and launched a search operation to track down the terrorists. The densely forested Ghati area with undulating ground restricts visibility and allows undetected movement. The terrorists possibly took advantage of the terrain and managed to escape.

(c) Additional deployment of the Army has been made along the International Border to tackle any inflitration bids by terrorists. These troops have established an intelligence network to gain information of any terrorist movement and launch operations. Communication system for exchange of first hand information between executive level of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Army has also been put in place.

Allotment of Land etc. to war heroes

1583. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of 1971 war heroes. duly awarded with gallantry awards like Sena Medals, VSM and AVSM failed to get their due from respective State Governments by way of allotment of land etc.;

(b) if so, the number and details of cases of such war heroes who had been so deprived of their due as have come to Government notice; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to secure their due to these war heroes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Approval to the Delhi-Co-operative Societies Bill, 2003

1584. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently passed Delhi Cooperative Societies Bill, 2003 is pending before the Central Government for its approval;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in giving approval;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the provisions made in the Bill are detrimental to the interests of the individual members of the Cooperative Group Housing Societies;

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken/proposed to be taken in order to safeguard the interests of the members; and

(e) by when the approval to the said Bill is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (e) The Delhi Co-operative Societies Bill, 2003 as passed by the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi has been reserved by the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi for the consideration of the President. The said Bill has been forwarded to the subject-matter Ministries concerned for obtaining their views on the various provisions contained in it. It is only after these views are received that the matter can be processed further and placed before the President.